Excise duty on cement has also been reduced from Rs. 225/- per tonne to Rs. 205/- per tonne.

The Industry has also been encouraged to convert wet process units into dry process units by giving suitable relief in levy obligation. Appropriate relief by way of reduction in levy obligation is also allowed to compensate the Industry for increased cost of cement production due to the use of captive diesel generating sets.

FICCI report on MRTP Act

1133. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a report from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the effect that the MRTP Act had become a strait jacket to industrial growth, leading to high costs;

(b) whether FICCI has also suggested deletion of Chapter-III of the MRTP Act, 1969; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the suggestions made by the Federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government have received a Note, dated 3-2-1988 from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for simplifying and rationalising the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some amendments to the MRTP Act are under consideration of the Government.

Problems faced by women entrepreneurs

1134. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women entrepreneurs are facing problems in regard to the preparation of project reports, availability of finance, suitable land and sheds, non-availability of raw materials and marketing of products; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government to create an atmosphere conducive for the development of entrepreneural skill of women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Women entrepreneurs are eligible for all the facilities and assistance being provided by the State and Central Governments under the various existing schemes for promotion of entrepreneurship. Some State Governments have initiated special schemes for the benefit of women entrepreneurs which include creation of special cells, priority/reservation of plots and sheds, etc.

Government of India have constituted a National-level Standing Committee on Women Entrepreneurs to make suggestions and recommendations to the Government for further development of entrepreneurship amongst the women.

Hazardous Industrial Units

1135. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether expert bodies pointed out from time to time about the location of hazardous industrial units in the thickly populated areas of Delhi;